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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/770,248	01/29/2001	Osamu Iwasaki	35.C15064	6831
5514	7590	11/02/2005	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			PHAM, THIERRY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/770,248	IWASAKI, OSAMU
	Examiner Thierry L. Pham	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 4-6 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 4-6 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: RCE filed on 8/16/05.
- Claims 4-6, and 14-17 are pending; claims 1-3, and 7-13 have been canceled.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/16/05 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-8, filed on 8/16/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 4, 14, and 17 under 102(e) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of different interpretations of previously applied art of record (US 6711677 to Wiegley).
- 35 U.S.C 101 rejection (claim 17) for non-statutory subject matter, and 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph rejection (claims 4, 14, and 17) for being indefinite have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-6, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegley (US 6711677), and in view of Lapstun et al (US 2005/0097323).

Regarding claim 4, Wiegley further discloses an image data recording device (printer, fig. 2), comprising:

- common key generating means (“session identifier” generating means for generating a session identifier corresponding to a print session request from the host computer, fig. 3-6, col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-20) for generating a common key based on a print ID transferred from an image data processing device;
- management means (session identifier table 40, fig. 8, col. 4, lines 1-20) for managing the common key generated by said common key generating means and the print ID transferred from said image data processing device;
- common key issue means (session identifier issuing means, cols. 3-4) for transmitting the common key (transmitting session identifier to personal computer 12 via network 14, fig. 2) generated by said common key generating means to said image data processing device;
- common key obtaining means (session identifier obtaining means, cols. 3-4) for obtaining the common key corresponding to the print ID (obtaining session identifier previously generated corresponding to a print request from a table, col. 5, lines 4-15) from said management means when the print ID and print control data are transmitted from said image data processing device;
- analyzing means (comparison/analyzing means, fig. 5b, cols. 5-6) for extracting encrypted print image data by analyzing a command of the print control data using the common key obtained by said common key obtaining means;
- decryption means (decryption means, fig. 3-6, cols. 5-6) for decrypting the encrypted print image data (personal computer encrypts print data with session identifier and session key, col. 4, lines 48-67) extracted by said analyzing means using a key (using an session identifier generated earlier, col. 5, lines 4-24) corresponding to the print ID; and
- print means (printer, fig. 2, abstract and col. 2, lines 30-55) for recording the print image data decrypted by said decryption means on a recording medium.

Wiegley discloses a management means for managing the common key generated by said common key generating means and print ID transferred from said image data processing device, but fails to expressly teach and/or suggest managing common key and print ID *in pairs*.

Lapstun, in the same field of endeavor for printing, teaches a method for managing common key and print ID in pairs (pars. 7, 13, 17, 369).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made by modifying image recording device of Wiegley to include a method for managing common key and print ID in pairs as taught by Lapstun because of a following reason: (•) it eliminates the risk of replay attacks (col. 1, lines 62-65 as taught Wiegley) and to easily managing the print jobs by implementing common keys and print ID in pairs, for example, it allows an operator to easily search for a print job ID with given a generated common key and/or vice versa. In addition, Wiegley also teaches paring the public/private key with secret session identifier is well known and available in the arts (col. 4, lines 30-66). In other words, pairing between two IDs are well known and widely available in the art and therefore, it would be obvious to modify image recording device of Wiegley to store and managing common key and print ID in pairs.

Regarding claim 5, Wiegley further discloses the apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said common key generating means generates the common key without regularity independent (col. 2, lines 29-54) of a value of the print ID.

Regarding claim 6, Wiegley further discloses the apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said decryption means performs a decryption process using a conversion table (table, fig. 8, col. 4, lines 1-20) generated using said key corresponding to the print ID.

Regarding claims 14-16: Claims 14-16 are the methods corresponding the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claims 4-6; therefore, claims 14-16 are rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claims 4-6 above.

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Regarding claim 17: Claim 17 recites limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 4 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. RAM 32, fig. 2) for storing computer programs; hence claim 17 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 4.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

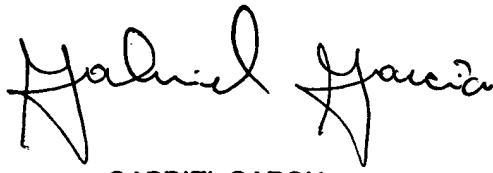
- U.S. 5633932 to Davis et al, teach a method/apparatus for encrypting/decrypting print data ID.
- U.S. 5574789 to Nakmuara et al, teach a method/apparatus for encrypting/decrypting print data using an image forming apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER